3.

Testimony of Mr Broadlove pages 1 of 6 Stall page 13.

1.

Collation. June 20th 1839.

While Mr Bradford was under examination, Mr Stuart Mr. Broad=
=love, the Collector of the Customs for the Port of New Orleans, & Mr George C Stall, the Cashier of the Commercial Bank, who had been summoned as witnesses, ap=
=peared; Mr Bradford's examin=
=ation was suspended to make way for taking the testimony of the above named gentlemen

Mr Broadlove was sworn by the Notary.

Examined by Mr Medill the Commissioner.

Mr Broadlove.

My transactions with the Mint have been very limited, I have occasionally paid them money on drafts drawn by the Treasury to a considerable amount, but I do not recollect the amount. I once made a deposite of about $1080 in bullion & hammered Dollars; & a certificate of deposite was returned, which on being sent to the Mint about three weeks or a month afterwards, the amount was sent to me principally in half Dollars.

During the suspension of specie payments, many of the payers of duty bonds, called on me and enquired whether I would receive the certificates of the Branch Mint in payment of these bonds, as specie was difficult to be obtained, & at a premium varying from 10 to 24 p.c. I was induced to receive the certificates of the mint in limited amounts from such persons as had large amounts to pay, or such persons as found difficulty in raising the money. The amount received by me was about $20,000, about 10 or 11,000 of which I transferred to the Merchants bank, and about 8 or 9000 to the Commercial Bank.

The first amount named I have never since heard of.

The amount held by the Commercial Bank remained unpaid up to a short time since, Some weeks ago the Cashier of the Commercial Bank informed me

Mr Brocklesby

that he had made repeated ap-
plications for the amount in coin,
that he could neither get coin, nor
any satisfactory promise at what
time it could be had; & that the
Bank was determined to have
the certificates protested, & demand
of me the amount, on which I
had placed my endorsement as
Collector. I then stated to the Cashier
that it was very unpleasant to
me, to learn that the Mint could
not deliver the Coin, & still more
unpleasant to learn that they
were determined to enter protests
on the several certificates held by
them, and requested that the
Bank would delay proceeding to
such a step, & that I would endeavour
to have some arrangement made
by which the Mint could pay up
all the certificates. To this delay the
Bank consented, I immediately
addressed a note to the Treasurer
of the Mint, informing him of the
course intended by the Bank &
begged of him to take up these
certificates, he replied to my note

Mr Brockden

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that the Coiner had failed to furnish him with coin, conse=
=quently he could not take up the certificates; about this time, the Superintendent of the mint called on me for the purpose of effecting some arrangement by which he could take up all the certifi=
=cates then out, which amounted to about $50,000, or that $50,000 would pay all the pressing de=
=mands. Which of these remarks were made by Mr Bradford, I do not now recollect, I informed Mr Bradford, that as Collector of the Customs I could not aid him in such an arrangement, but as President of the Atchafalaya Bank I would agree to furnish $50,000 in specie, upon his pro=
=ducing evidence of the Secretary of the Treasury having placed to the credit of the Bank at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia that sum. To this proposition Mr Bradford replied that he was under the impression the deposite would be made in Philadelphia on his

Mr Breedlove

application to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr Bradford addressed a letter to the Secretary, asking the amount in Philadelphia. I, also, wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury informing him of the great complaints of the holders of the certificates & of their threats to have them protested; & stated the proffer made by me to Mr Bradford, to furnish the $ 50,000 in specie, on a similar amount being deposited at the Mint in Philadelphia.

I also informed the Secretary that from what I had heard through the City, there must be something wrong at the Mint, & that my opinion was, that the public interest required an investigation into the affairs of the mint; & recommended that a competent man should be sent out for that purpose.

To my communication Mr Woodbury answered, that large sums of money had been already furnished to this Branch

Mr Broadhead

Mint, & that no further sums could be non advanced to it; and if the holders of the certificates were not satisfied to wait until the mint could furnish the bars, they had the right to demand & receive the amount in bullion. Mr Woodbury further informed me, that an investigation into the affairs of the Mint had been ordered.

On the receipt of this letter I met Mr Bradford in the street & informed him of its contents. He replied that the mint could not return to the holders of the certificates their several amounts in bullion, as their several parcels deposited could not be identified.

Mr Bradford then stated to me, that he felt assured that he would be enabled to take up the certificates held by the Commercial Bank in the course of a week or Ten days.

This information I imme=diately communicated to the Cashier of the Bank, who agreed

Mr Biddle

to wait ten days; The ten days expired & the Bank again informed me that they had applied for the amount, & had received no satisfactory information, as to any specific time, when the amounts would be paid to them, & consequently, they should have the certificates protested, which they had done, as I was furnished with notice as endorsee, since when, I have heard nothing more of the protests or certificates.

The certificates taken by me as Collector, in payment of Duty Bonds & protested are as follows, viz:

Silver Bullion } dated 22. June 1838
No 24 } in favor of M de Lizardi & Co for $6725.52

Sola Bullion } dated 21. June 1838
No 17. } in favor of Same $381.61

Silver Bullion } Dated 14 May 1838
No 16. } in favor of Kennedy Durell & Co 343.85

$7.450.98

Mr Beaulieu

On being asked whether he had for=
=med any satisfactory opinion of the
evident dissatisfaction with the Public
in relation to the Mint.

Answers, I have never been in the
building but once previous to this
day. & then it was while the machinery
was about being put up –

I have no knowledge of the
administration of the affairs within
the mint.

My acquaintance with the
officers is confined to Mr Bradford
& Mr Forstall, I have seen Dr Hart
but once before.

Questioned as to the compe=
=tency of the officers

Answers, I have long known
Mr Forstall, I beleive him to be
incompetent to discharge his duties
at the Mint. I have long looked
upon him as being incompetent
to the transaction of any business.
He was formerly a cotton Broker
& I consider him as incompetent
for that occupation.

I never became acquainted with

Mr Bradford.

Mr Broadford

Mr Broadford until about the pe=
=riod of his appointment to the
mint, since that period I have had
frequent occasion to meet him, at
my office. I have had many con=
=versations with him.

The opinion I have formed
of Mr Broadford is, that he is want=
=ing in the energy necessary to his
station, & I once said to him "If
"I was Captain I would be Captain"
This opinion I have never before
expressed, unless called for, as on
this occasion, I never would have done
so.

Being unacquainted with the
other officers, I have no opinion
of their competency.

Examined on behalf of
Mr Broadford
at about the time of Mr
Broadford's taking charge of the
Mint he called upon me & expres=
=sed a desire of going on to Philadel=
=phia to make himself acquainted
with his duties; the sum they were
new to him, & that he was anxious

to make himself familiar with them. That he had not funds sufficient to defray his expenses & requested of me to take his draft, in order to furnish him, with the means I answered that I was not authorized so to do & could not.

Mr Bransford's object being to go through the mint in Philadelphia & by his examination there to learn his duties.

Quest. Did you ever hold any conversation previous to that time with any individual connected with the mint, in relation to Mr Bransford's contemplated trip to Phil[a], if so, who was the person & what was the conversation?

Ans. I have no such recollection I have no means of knowing what was Mr Bransford's avocation his official duties & intercourse with the Government or the Directors at Philadelphia.

I do not know how Mr Bransford has conducted his official business here.

Mr Broadhead

Quest. Have you any reason to believe that the payment of the certificates you have mentioned would have been withheld, by the Mint, had it been furnished by the Bearer with the means of doing so.

Ans. I have no reason to believe that the payment would have been with= =held if the proper Officers had had the means of doing so; I have always looked upon Mr Bransom & Mr Forstall as honest men.

Quest. What give rise to the re= =mark which you have stated to have made to Mr Bransom that if "you were to petition you would be Captain."?

Ans. The remark was produced by a conversation I had with Mr Brans= =som on the subject of the other offi= =cers of the Mint; Mr Bransom had said that some of the other officers did not do their duty, & that he could not get it done by them; It was then I said, that I would have it done, or know the reasons why it

Mr Bransom

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it was not done "that if I was Captain I would be Captain.

At this conversation Mr Bradford informed me that he had applied for the removal of some of the officers

Examined on behalf of Messrs. Maxwell & Tyler

Quest. Did you ever undertake to decide which of the officers was faulty & concur in the recommendation of their removal?

Ans. I never did. I would not recommend the removal of an officer, without a hearing. I think I may have said, that if the officers complained of were thus guilty of dereliction that they ought to be removed.

Quest. Have any circumstances come to your knowledge to induce you to believe that Mr. Maxwell, the Melter & Refiner, has ever combined or co-operated with the Bank proprietors or any member of Congress to put down the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Mr Beckham

13.

Ans. No.

Quest. Have any circumstances come to your knowledge to induce you to believe that the official conduct of the Comptr of Matter & Reporter, or either of them has been influenced by any aversion or opposition to the Govern=ment?

Ans. I have no knowledge.

Examination of
Mr Sloan Cashier of the com=
=mercial Bank, by Mr Riddell the Commissioner
Mr Stallmad sworn by the Notary.

I am the Cashier of the Com=
=mercial Bank. The amount of Gold certificates of the mint which were held on the 17th inst, by the Bank was $14329.09 including costs of Protests.

The amount of the New Orleans Branch mint Silver certificates held by the Bank, at the same period 17th inst, was $7321.35 including costs of Protests. Which said amount in Gold & Silver includes all held by the Bank in the month

Mr Broadhorn
Mr Sloan

month of June.

The greater portion of these certificates have been held upwards of six months during that period I have been in the habit of sending out on a week to demand payment.

Until within the last month or two the answer has been that they would be settled for in a few days, or in the next week.

After that I instructed the messenger to take payment in Bank notes, Bullion, or Coin. To these last calls the answer was, that they could not be settled for at the time.

The Messenger stated that he sometimes saw the Treasurer, and sometimes other officers, that he was referred from one officer to another without being able to get a satisfactory answer.

Within the last two months the Bank called upon some of the endorsers to take measures for the payment of the certificates, as no payment could be had at the Mint.

Mr Slade.

On the 14th inst they were protested,
& since then some of the endorsers
have paid.

A portion of them have also
been paid by Mr Barker since protest.
$5932.03 were paid by endorsers.
$7304.85 amts of Silver certificates
paid by Mr Barker after
protest.
$8381.06 are still under protest unpaid.

I think that the opinion
of the mercantile community in
New Orleans is unfavorable to the
administration of the affairs of the
mint, arising from a want of
punctual payments of certificates.

Examined on behalf
of Mr Mannell

While Mr Stein was the Engineer
of the water works, belonging to the
Bank, I believe he employed Mr Demitry.
The engagement was with Mr Stein
individually & not with the Bank.

I know nothing of his character
or qualifications

Mr Stein

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I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the testimony given by James W. Breedlove Esq & Robt Hall Esq. before Thos Shields Esq. the Commissioner on the 20th of June 1839.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name & affixed the impress of my seal of office at New Orleans August 6th 1839.

Horatio Davis

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